

AUG 08 1996

Mr. Bernard F. Schoen, Sr.  
President  
Hummel Croton, Inc.  
10 Harmich Road  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Re: Diamond Alkali Superfund Site  
Passaic River Study Area

Dear Mr. Schoen:

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq., the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is charged with responding to the release and/or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants into the environment and with enforcement responsibilities.

EPA has documented the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants into the Passaic River Study Area ("Study Area"), a part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site. Sediments in the Study Area contain numerous hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants that present a risk to the environment and the humans who may ingest contaminated fish and shellfish. Pursuant to CERCLA, EPA is currently overseeing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study being performed at the Study Area under an Administrative Order on Consent signed by Occidental Chemical Corporation.

Pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA, EPA may request information from companies about their operations in and around the Study Area. You may have already received such an Information Request letter or you may expect to receive one. In addition, Sections 106(a) and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9606(a) and §9607(a), allows EPA to notify parties of their potential liability and request that they implement response actions deemed necessary by EPA to protect public health, welfare or the environment, and may be liable for all costs incurred by the government in responding to any release or threatened release at the Site. While to date, you may not have received any notice of potential liability from EPA concerning the Study Area, this does not preclude you from receiving such a notice in the future.

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EPA has scheduled a meeting for 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 29, 1996 to provide more information about the status of work concerning the Study Area to all those parties who have either received a Notice letter or a Request for Information letter. The meeting will be held in Room 305 on the Third Floor at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York. A list of addressees is attached to this letter. EPA encourages you to attend this meeting.

Please be advised that security at 26 Federal Plaza is very strict and that building guards may confiscate any item they consider to be a weapon. In the past, even small pocket knives such as "Swiss Army" knives have been taken from visitors. To clear security as quickly as possible, you should use the Duane Street entrance to 26 Federal Plaza.

If you have any questions concerning this meeting, please contact either Patricia Hick, Esq., at (212) 637-3137 or Amelia Wagner, Esq., at (212) 637-3141 of the Office of Regional Counsel of EPA or Mr. Lance Richman of the Emergency Response and Remedial Division at (212) 637-4409.

Sincerely yours,

Delmar Karlen, Jr., Chief  
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